

UNAPPROVED

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

@Memorial Library Community Room

MARCH 6, 2008

7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Selectman, Janet M. McCarty. Also present were Stephen A. Fontana, Second Selectman, and Michael Freda, Third Selectman.

Ms. McCarty explained that Sharon Bellinger, Girl Scouts of Connecticut, had requested a proclamation for Girl Scout Week, March 9-15, 2008 and that she would be presenting that proclamation to the Girl Scouts who were in attendance before the rest of the business of the meeting took place. Four Girl Scouts came forward and after the proclamation was read by Ms. McCarty, they presented her with a basket of Girl Scout cookies. Ms. McCarty asked the former Girl Scouts in the audience to stand and be recognized. She noted that a copy of the proclamation would be posted in the Town Hall the following week to acknowledge Girl Scout Week.

At this time, the Board heard public comments relative to the agenda.

Phyllis Kaercher, 5 Tennyson Avenue, former Registrar of Voters, explained that the registrars work longer hours and have more responsibilities than when she was registrar of voters. She said that she supported the registrars request since the work involved made it more than a part-time job.

Gary Zempel, 279 Maple Avenue, former Registrar of Voters, said he agreed with Phyllis Kaercher.

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of February 13, 2008. Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda - yes

Ms. McCarty announced the resignation of Anthony P. Pileggi (R), 190 Quinnipiac Avenue, from the Zoning Board of Appeals. She thanked Mr. Pileggi for his service to the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That Janet M. McCarty, of the Town of North Haven be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Grant Agreement/Personal Service Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to complete improvements to a municipally owned, operated, and maintained recreational/educational resource known as Ridge Road Elementary School which is located in North Haven, CT
In addition, that Janet M. McCarty, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut. Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana explained that he and State Senator Len Fasano had worked to obtain a grant for \$15,600 from the State for a playground at Ridge Road School. He thanked the parents at Ridge Road School who worked to get all the information necessary to submit the proposal for the grant.

RESOLVED: that the Town of North Haven hereby adopts as its policy the nondiscrimination agreement and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes §4a-60(a)(1) and §4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in the State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142 Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda - yes

RESOLVED: that the Town of North Haven Board of Selectmen express interest in acquiring the subject land at 240 Universal Drive North as a public highway in accordance with the offer of North Haven Commons Development, LLP dated March 4, 2008, and do hereby refer said matter to the Planning and Zoning Commission for appropriate action.

In so doing, The Board of Selectmen recognizes the potential economic value of having said property under the control of the town for the further development potential that has been identified to the south of this location.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

John Parese, Town Attorney, explained that the Board of Selectmen should recommend that the Planning & Zoning Commission accept ownership of the road between the Target Plaza and the North Haven Commons Development. He noted that the road was built by the developers of the Target Plaza to conform to state highway standards and that extending the road will open up access to 100 acres of industrial property that could be developed in the future. Richard Branigan, Director of Public Works, agreed and explained that improvements would be made to the service road and at its intersection to Universal Drive at the developers' expense. He also noted that the economic potential was great because of the possibility of future development.

Ms. McCarty introduced Thomas McKeon, Chairman of the Ethics Review Committee, who explained that 18 members of the committee had looked at the existing Code of Ethics with the help of Rachel Rubin, Director of Compliance for UCONN and appointed by Governor Rell as advisor of ethics. Since then they have voted unanimously on the new Code of Ethics for the Town of North Haven. He recommended that the Board of Selectmen vote to have it become part of the Town Ordinances. He noted that all the Ethics Review Committee discussions were open to the public. He then thanked all the members for participating and for giving him the opportunity to serve as chairman.

Ms. McCarty proposed to put the Code of Ethics as recommended on the Town website so that residents could comment on its content. The Board of Selectmen will read and consider comments and hold a conversation before the May Board of Selectmen's meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. She said that the process would continue and the new Town of North Haven's Code of Ethics would be written. It was last approved in 1973.

Anyone who wishes to comment should write, call, or e-mail the First Selectmen's Office. Ms. McCarty then praised the dedicated volunteers on the committee and noted that the Town thanks them for their hard work.

Ms. McCarty introduced Pamela Parrella, Republican Registrar of Voters, who made a presentation regarding her request for a pay and benefits increase for the Registrars of Voters. She noted that implementation of the new voting system and job duties previously handled by the Town Clerk has increased the hours of work. In addition to running elections, the registrars must conduct the annual canvass and know three data systems. North Haven has 15,401 active registered voters, 524 inactive voters, and is among the top towns registering voters and having residents vote, as evidenced by our winning the "Democracy Cup" for the highest voter participation in a mid-size town in the November 2007 General Election. Ms. Parrella also requested health benefits and noted that she had injured herself because she carried heavy equipment to prepare for the elections. Based on the hours she worked, she noted that the registrars were getting paid about the same rate per hour as their deputies. She said that the registrars were responsible for hiring 60-70 people per election and averaged three elections per year.

Mr. Freda noted that this was the fourth or fifth Registrar of Voters' presentation that he had been present at and that he was now convinced that the request was legitimate. He said he endorsed the increase and made a motion to recommend that it should include full-time status. Mr. Freda asked what the liability to the town would be if an employee had no benefits and was injured.

Richard Branigan, Director of Public Works and a member of the Safety Committee, addressed this issue. He said that all employees of the town, whether full-time, part-time or volunteers are covered by workmen's compensation.

Mr. Fontana commented that he didn't think he had enough information, since he had not been present at previous discussions. He stated that he didn't think that the position should include benefits.

Ms. McCarty said that she could not support elevating the job to full-time status and that she would have a motion of her own to consider.

After further clarification, Mr. Freda's motion was stated to increase the Registrars of Voters status to full-time with a salary of \$28,500 with benefits. Voted: McCarty – no, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes Motion carried.

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the following property tax refunds:

Sarah Bard, 11 St. John Street, F9, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$22.87

Roger T. Derevere, 250 Maple Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$22.03

Steven or Rosalind Dixon, 19 Gilbert Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$80.83

GMAC, 500 Enterprise Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, in the amount of \$242.19, and in the amount of \$164.47

Anthony J. Golia, 12 Stanton Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$172.35

Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040, in the amount of \$76.32

Jaguar Credit, P.O. Box 680020, Franklin, TN 37068, in the amount of \$297.91, and in the amount of \$456.38

Thomas M. or Patricia A. Jermine, 16 Kings Highway, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$35.16

Nancy A. Kelly, 29 Butler Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$14.37

Longley Window Treatments LLC, 15 Sentinel Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$50.29

Mazda American Credit, P.O. Box 37068, Franklin, TN 37068, in the amount of \$73.50

Mazda American Credit, P.O. Box 680020, Franklin, TN 37068, in the amount of \$204.34

Nissan Infiniti LT, Box 254648, Sacramento, CA 95865, in the amount of \$378.17

Pasquale S. or Mary C. Palumbo, 21 Carina Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount \$57.49, and in the amount of \$68.20

Pamela Parente, 27 Primrose Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$13.59

Louis P. Pasquariello Jr., 583 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$ 80.77

Frances J. Perry, 75 Washington Avenue, 7-306, Hamden, CT 06518, in the amount of \$34.40

VW Credit Leasing LTD, 1401 Franklin Blvd., Libertyville, IL 60048, in the amount of \$139.03, and in the amount of \$155.08, and in the amount of \$218.15, and in the amount of \$187.16

Volvo Finance NA Inc., P.O. Box 680020, Franklin, TN 37068, in the amount of \$127.32, and in the amount of \$257.85, and in the amount of \$362.84, and in the amount of \$78.65

Marisa & Luigi Zurlo & Surv, 111 Summer Lane, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$59.40

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the following bond release, as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission:

Gospel Tabernacle Inc. DBA Calvary Temple, 211 Montowese Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$5,000.00

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the appointment of Donald F. Clark (R), 32 North Hill Road, to the Zoning Board of Appeals, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Anthony P. Pileggi (R)

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the appointment of Joseph P. Villano (D), 43 Highland Park Road, to the Commission on Aging to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Harriet Cxypoliski (D), term to expire 12/31/10

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty thanked Harriet Cxypoliski for her many years of service on the Commission on Aging and to the Town of North Haven

Mr. Fontana moved the appointment of Katherine F. Lofquist (R), 35 Grove Road, to the Commission on Aging to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Pearl E. Merola (R), term to expire 12/31/08.

Mr. Freda questioned whether a member of the Commission on Aging was required to be a resident of senior housing in town. The appointment was tabled in order to look into this issue.

Ms. McCarty moved the appointment of the following residents to the Clean Energy Task Force:

Walter Heinig 259 Spring Road

Rip Dauster 1699 Ridge Road

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty announced that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room. She also announced that the May meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be changed to Thursday, May 8, 2008 in the Library Community Room but would start at 6:30 p.m. in order to discuss the recommendation of the Ethics Review Committee.

The board entertained comments from the public.

Ann DeMatteo, New Haven Register, wanted clarification that the vote on the registrars' pay included full-time employment and benefits. After a question from Michael Russo, North Haven Citizen, it was stated that the starting date would be July 1, 2008 when the new budget went into effect. Michael Mele, 109 Maple Avenue stated that the registrars had no union representation and reported to the Board of Selectmen. Mildred Stankiewicz, 100 Blakeslee Avenue, and former Registrar of Voters noted that the registrars are answerable to the Secretary of State.

Phyllis Kaercher, 5 Tennyson Avenue, informed the audience that books were being sold in the library by the "Friends of the Library" and that everyone should stop by, buy a book and help support the cause.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street #15-4, asked Mr. Freda to comment on the effect of the economy on the people of North Haven. Mr. Freda said he thinks we are in a recession and that the stalled economy is leading to stagflation, a stagnant economy and inflationary period. He thought that prices would continue to increase due to rising energy and fuel prices. Even though there were some robust areas in town, businesses in North Haven are struggling.

Mildred Stankiewicz, 100 Blakeslee Avenue, asked if a tax freeze for seniors could be considered. Ms. McCarty noted that senior tax relief would be looked into, but not for this budget year.

Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, asked Mr. Freda if he had been one of the 1,200 people who signed the petition for revaluation delay. Mr. Freda said that he had not.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street, #15-4, noted that COG meetings were important and someone should attend the meetings from the town. She thought we weren't taking advantage of the many grant opportunities. Ms. McCarty said that she hasn't attended all the meetings but representatives do go in her place. She then stated that we have applied for a number of grants since the election.

Ms. McCarty made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the pending litigation of Vincent Palmeri.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

The Board of Selectmen adjourned to executive session at 8:00 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen returned from executive session at 8:27 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McCarty moved for adjournment at 8:27 p.m.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

